

1721 15th Avenue Southwest  
Olympia, WA 98502

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I understand the Courts will make a final decision at the end of this month on whether the proposed Microsoft settlement is in the best interest of the consumer. I personally believe that we need to leave it alone. It has already cost us billions of dollars in legal fees, lost production and loss of jobs in the technology sector of the economy.

Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows, in order to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with programs included within Windows. They have also agreed to document and disclose various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system for use by its competitors. This is definitely beyond what is expected in any antitrust settlement.

Let's end this before we get in over our head. There are far more pressing issues we need to concentrate on such as reviving this fragile economy.

Sincerely,



Edward Heffernan